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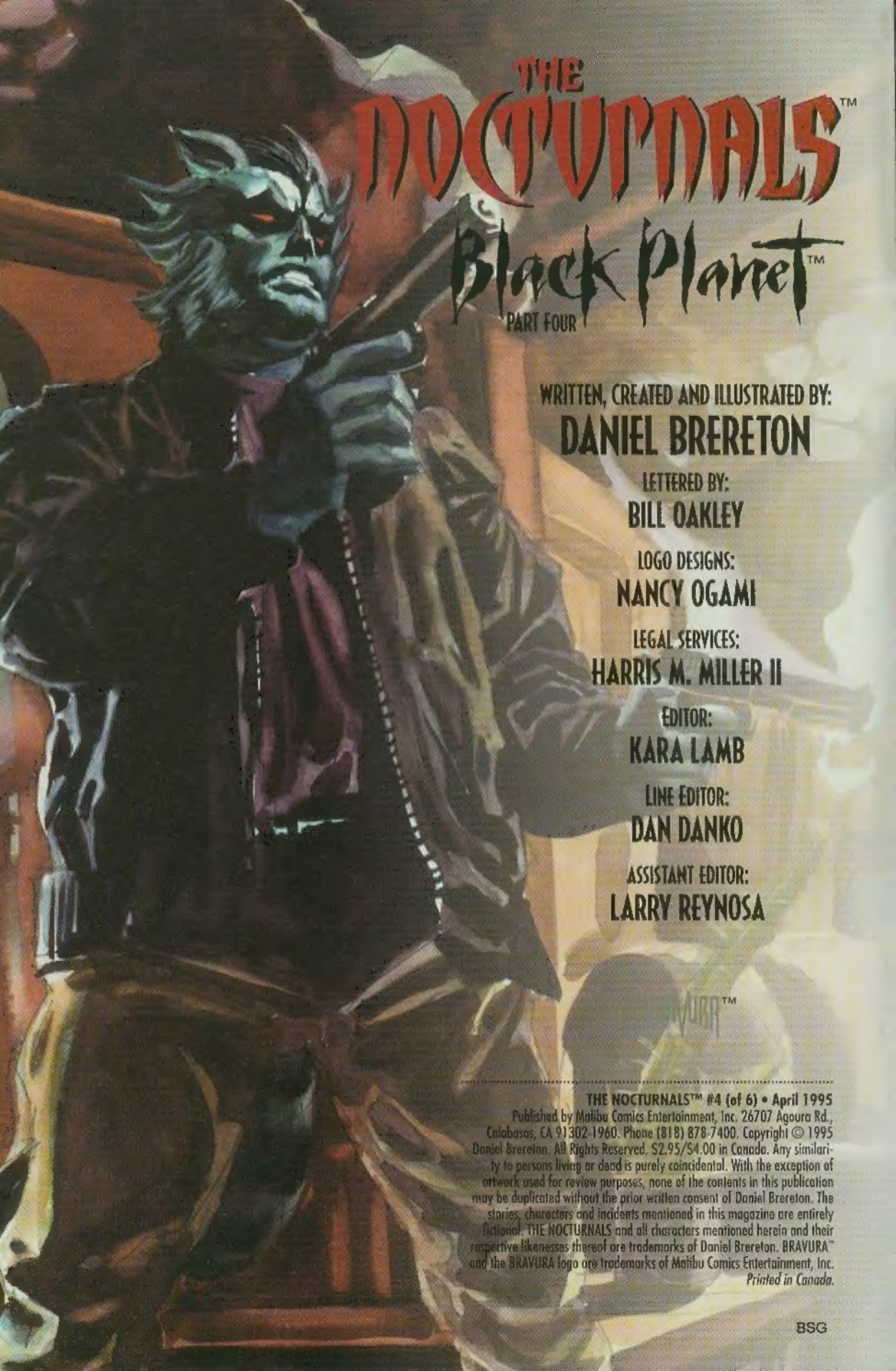
THE NOCTURNALS

4 OF 6

DANIEL BRERETON

THE NOCTURNALSTM





THE NOCTURNALS™

Black Planet™

PART FOUR

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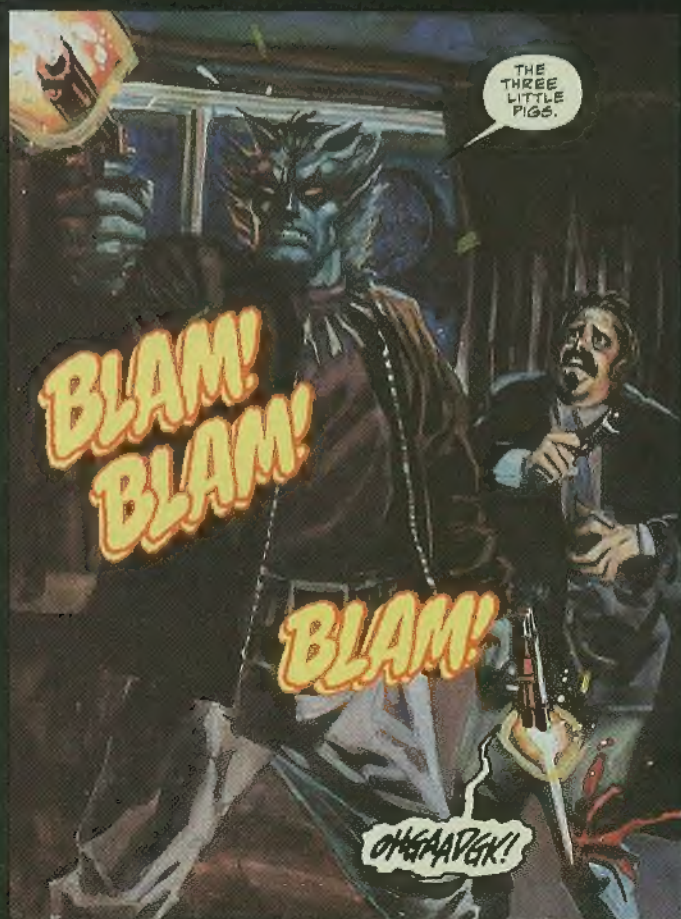
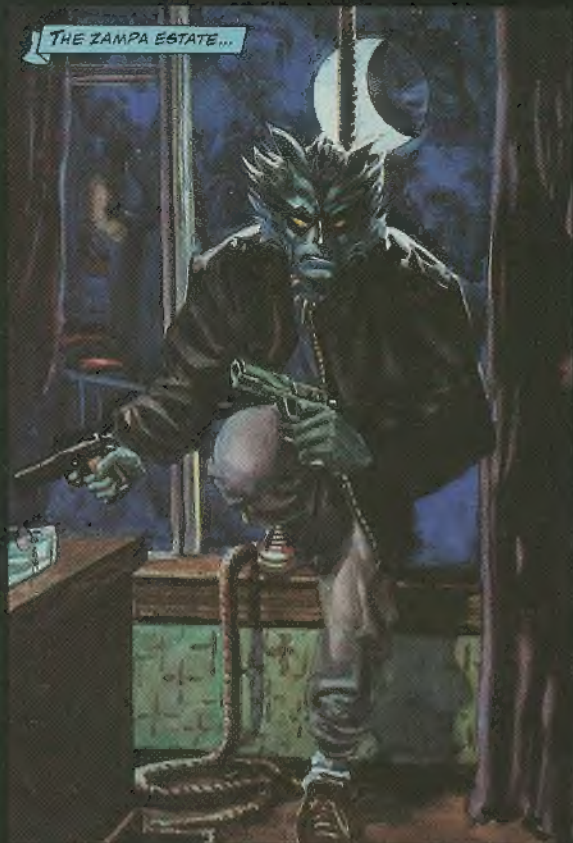
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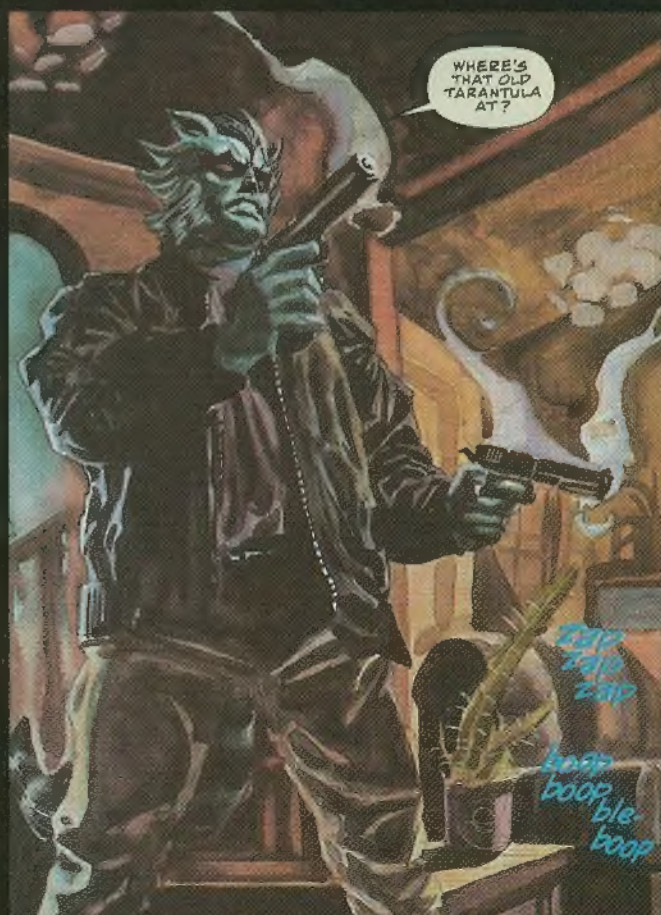
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"THE OLD TOMATO'S
ALL YOURS... FOR NOW."



CLEANHANDS
HAS TAKEN
LEAVE OF US...
WE CAN
PROCEED.

WE'LL SEE
JUST HOW DEEP
YOUR FRIENDSHIP
WITH HORROR
RUNG.



WHAT
AM I
GOING TO
SAY?

YOU
TELL HIM
YOU'RE SICK.
AND DON'T
DROOL,
PLEASE.



GOOD
EVENING, DON
LUPU. HOW ARE
YOU?

I TELL
YOU I'M
SICK.



I'M SORRY
TO HEAR THAT.
I KNOW IT'S BEEN
ROUGH FOR YOU
LATELY.

I DON'T
DROOL...

I SEE.

...PLEASE...



I'LL COME
SEE YOU
TOMORROW
EVENING?

I'M SICK.
COME SEE
ME...



...TOMORROW...
?CLICK?

THAT WAS
SUBTLE.





AND JUST
OUTSIDE...

PARTNERS...
LIKE HELL.

THE
BASTARD'S
STRINGING
ME.

HE'S GOT
THE GEEZER IN
HIS POCKET,
SOMEHOW. DOESN'T
NEED ME ANY-
MORE.

SOON AS
THIS BUSINESS
IS OVER,
FANE...

...I'LL
SERVE YOUR
GUTS WITH
BLACKBIRD
PIE.



FIRST
TONY Z GETS
CUTE. NOW THIS
CREEP.

SECOND
TIME,
SHAME
ON ME.



I SHOULDN'T
COMPLAIN. WITH OR
WITHOUT MY HELP,
HE'LL NEVER BAG
HORROR.

NOT THAT
I GIVE A RAT'S
LEFT ARM WHAT
HAPPENS TO
THE DOG.

SO WHY
THIS PIT IN MY
STOMACH?



...FANE NEEDS
ME, NEEDS THE
PASSAGE... WITHOUT
IT, THE CRIM CAN'T
INVADE EARTH.

ODDS
BODKINS...
THAT'S SOME
TALE...

NO KIDDING.
I ALWAYS
FIGURED YOU
AND EVE FOR
HUMANS...



...LIKE ALL
THE REST UP
THERE.

HARDLY.

HOW MANY
HUMANS DO YOU
KNOW WHO LOATHE
DAYLIGHT AS MUCH
AS ANY OF US
DO?

...DOG,
I DON'T
KNOW ANY
HUMANS.



I SAY WE
FIND THESE
CREATURES
AND BURN
THEM DOWN.

FANE,
ESPECIALLY.



DON'T
WORRY.

I'LL
ATTEND TO HIM.
PERSONALLY.



"...AND THE WITCH SAID, 'YOU FAERIES HAVE BEEN VERY BAD! I'M GONNA CAST A SPELL ON YOUR WHOLE CRUDDY FOREST!'"

TIME FOR BED, EVENING...



RATS.

CAN I READ YOU ANOTHER JACK HOWLER STORY, DAD?



NOT TONIGHT, PUMPKIN. WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND THOSE WEREWOLF COMICS?

IDAKNOW... I JUST LIKE 'EM...



EVERYBODY THINKS
WOLVES ARE BAD.
BUT THEY'RE NOT "

FOUR
YEARS
EARLIER

YOU'RE
LATE,
DOC.

I KEEP
LATE HOURS, PAPA
WOLF



SIT, SIT.

I HAD THEM
HOLD THE KITCHEN
OPEN FOR YOU SIT
DOWN, EAT SOME-
THING, YOU MOROSE
BASTARD!



NOT
HUNGRY
I'M WORKING.
DON LUPU

WORKING...
TONIGHT? BUT IT'S
HALLOWEEN!

EXACTLY
AND YOUR COM-
PETEORS NEED
A GOOD
SCARING.

YOU'VE
SURE BEEN TO
THAT MY VERTOWN
BOOGY MAN.



BUT
TONIGHT, I
HAVE A
SURPRISE FOR
YOU

A GIFT FOR
THE UNFRIENDLY
GHOST WHO HAS
HAUNTED THE
GARBAGE OFF MY
STREETS.

SOMETHING
WORTHY OF A
NIGHT LIKE
THIS!



WHAT MORE COULD YOU POSSIBLY GIVE ME?



WHO-- WHAT THE HE--???



YES IT IS MY DADDY!



EVE!!!



THAT'S THE FIRST SMILE I'VE SEEN CRACK THAT STONY FACE

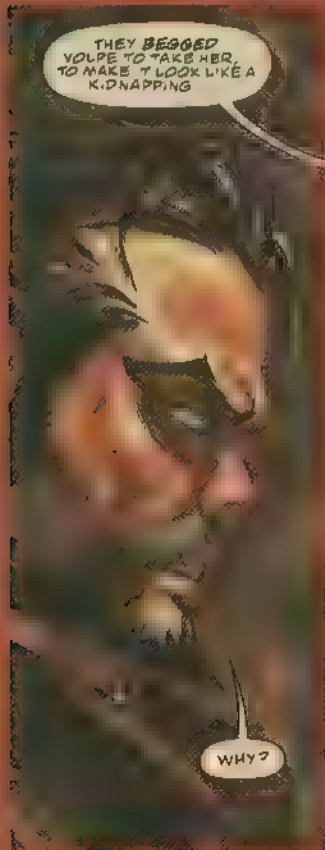
HOW? HOW DID YOU FIND HER?

THE MONTH BEFORE DANNY VOLPE PICKED UP ON A COUPLE OF LOSERS TRYING TO SELL THE R KID FOR PRACTICALLY NOTHING



I SENT VOLPE OUT THERE THIS EVENING WITH BIG JIM... YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF THAT KIND OF JUNKIE BEHAVIOR...

BUT THEY WEREN'T ADDICTS. THEY WERE THESE SQUAREJAWN FOSTER PARENTS SAID THIS SWEET CHILD HERE HAD RUINED A DOZEN HOUSEHOLDS IN LESS THAN A YEAR INCLUDING THEIRS...

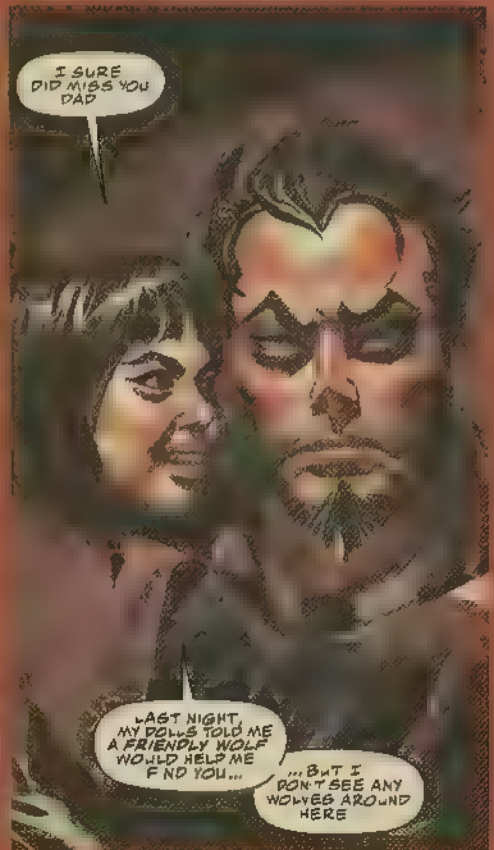


THEY BEGGED VOLPE TO TAKE HER TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A KIDNAPPING

WHY?



THEY WOULDN'T SAY



I SURE DID MISS YOU DAD

LAST NIGHT MY DOLLS TOLD ME A FRIENDLY WOLF WOULD HELP ME FIND YOU...

...BUT I DON'T SEE ANY WOLVES AROUND HERE





A TOY
WAS NEVER
JUST A TOY
AFTER YOUR
JOURNEY
THROUGH THE
PASSAGE

SOMETHING
INCREDIBLE
HAPPENED TO
YOU ON THAT
HIDDEN
VOYAGE
BETWEEN
WORLDS



YOU
ATTRACTED
AN UNUSUAL
TROUPE OF
WHAT WHO
KNOWS

LOST SOULS
STRANDED
TRAVELLERS...
LOOKING FOR A
WAY OUT - A
FRIENDLY FACE



WHOEVER YOU
GHOSTS ARE KEEP-
ING SUCH A TIGHT
RING AROUND MY
HALLOWEEN GIRL,
DON'T QUIT NOW

WE'RE
GONNA NEED
YOUR HELP HELP
I CAN'T ASK OF
THE OTHERS



THIS
ENEMY
FIGHT. NOT
YET

EVE'S BAG
OF TRICKS
SHOULD BE ENOUGH
OF A DISTRACTION



DON'T
START WITH
ME, FANE

DON'T TELL ME
KOMODO IS A LOST CAUSE,
LIKE THE RACCOON OR ANY
OF THE DOZEN WHO'VE
ESCAPED IN THE LAST
THREE YEARS

THEY'RE WILD.
WHAT DO YOU
EXPECT?

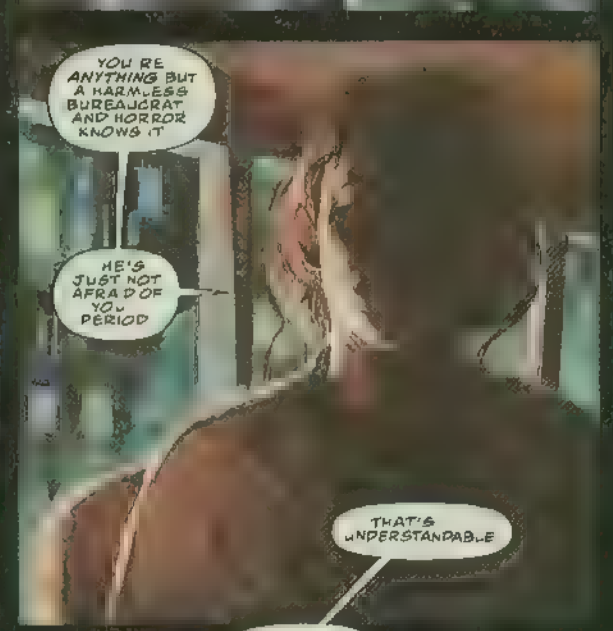
I DON'T
CARE DEAD OR
ALIVE, I WANT MY
PROPERTY BACK
THAT INCLUDES THE
RACCOON. HE'S
BEEN OUT THERE
TOO LONG

I'LL
PERSONALLY
DELIVER ALL
THE HYBRIDS,
DIRECTOR
FLETCHER, AFTER
I CONCLUDE THIS
BUSINESS WITH
HORROR

YOUR LITTLE
AMBUSH? IT DIDN'T WORK
BEFORE. YOU THINK HE'S
GOING TO STICK HIS HEAD
RIGHT INTO THE NOOSE
AGAIN? ALONE?



IT'S HIS
STYLE, HIS
OVERCONFIDENCE
HIS HATRED AND
LACK OF FEAR OF
A HARMLESS,
TRAITOR-
BUREAUCRAT.



YOU'RE
ANYTHING BUT
A HARMLESS
BUREAUCRAT
AND HORROR
KNOWS IT

HE'S
JUST NOT
AFRAID OF
YOU,
PERIOD

THAT'S
UNDERSTANDABLE

AFTER ALL,
HE DOESN'T
KNOW ME VERY
WELL



SAMPA FAMILY HOME. 11 PM

IT'S
GOING TO
RAIN
TONIGHT

I KNOW
I CAN'T
WAIT

YOUR TOYS
TELL YOU
THAT?

NO,
DAD, I
CAN SMELL
IT!



THAT LAST
BURR TO IS
PLAY NG HELL
WITH MY
STOMACH

HEY.

Y KNOW, I
HEARD THE RACCOON
OWNS THAT TACO
JOINT THE FILTHY, MUR-
DERING YARM NT. CAN
YOU BELIEVE THAT?

GEORGE

DOESNT
SURPRISE ME
REALLY. BEN,
THE HOT SAUCE
ALONE AT THAT
PLACE IS A
KILLER

GEORGE,
JESUS,
MAN --
LOOK!



WHERE D
THEY COME
FROM?

IS THAT
HIM? TELL
ME THAT'S
HIM!

OH,
YEAH BUT
WHO'S THE
LITTLE
GIRL?

HELL IF I
KNOW. IS THAT
A TRICK OR TREAT
GETUP SHE'S
WEAR NG OR
SOMETHING?



"GOOD'S YOU EVER GET THE
FEEL NG THERE'S SOMETHING
GO NG ON."

"ALL THE TIME."

BETCHA
DIDNT KNOW
THERE'S MEN N
THAT CAR BACK THERE,
LOOK NG AT US

OH, YES
I DID

I CAN
SMELL
THEM







WHAT KIND OF
IDOT BRINGS A
HELPLESS CHILD
INTO A DEN OF
WO..YES?

STAND
DOWN,
HORROR

ACCOMPANY
US WITHOUT
INCIDENT IT WOULD
BE A SHAME TO SEE
THE GRL
HARMED.

BRETT,
COLIN I
WANT H.M
ALIVE



GET AWAY
FROM HIM!
YOU'VE BEEN
WARNED-

WE'LL
THEN YOU'D
BETTER SHOOT
ME

BECAUSE
NONE OF US
ARE GOING
ANYWHERE

GO
AHEAD,
HONEY SHOW
THEM WHO'S
HELPLESS.

AS
FOR MY
CHILD





AS YOU CAN
SEE, MY DAUGHTER
IS QUITE
GIFTED.

UNTIL YOU
COME UP WITH
SOMETHING BETTER
THAN SYNTHETIC
TRIGGER MEN, YOUR
THREATS AREN'T
WORTH A MONKEY'S
SNOT.

AS FOR
THIS...



MY HATCHLING...!



YOUR
INVASION, YOUR
SOUL... ALL DEAD,
FANE.

DEATH...
YOU'RE STILL
THINKING IN
TERMS OF
DEATH...



...DOCTOR,
YOU HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
YOU'RE DEAL-
ING WITH...



